

## THE 2009 BENELUX LIFTING EVENT



[WWW.VERTICAALDAGEN.NET](http://WWW.VERTICAALDAGEN.NET)

Verticaaldagen Benelux is in 2009 HET evenement voor verhuurders en gebruikers van:

- mobiele en stationaire verticaalliften
- zelfrijdende schaarplatforms
- zelfrijdende telescoop- en kniktelescoophoogwerkers
- hoogwerkers op aanhanger
- vrachtwagenhoogwerkers op klein en groot rijbewijs
- rupshoogwerkers
- spinhoogwerkers
- hefsteigers
- "starre" telescopische verreikers
- "roterende" telescopische verreikers
- mobiele minikranen



Tevens biedt Verticaaldagen Benelux presentaties van bedrijven die zijn gespecialiseerd in aanverwante diensten, zoals:

- opleidingen voor hoogwerkerbediening
- keuringsinstanties en Notified Bodies
- branche organisaties
- verzekeringen
- financieringen en kredietverstrekking
- automatisering
- marketing- en mediadiensten



**We heten u graag welkom op  
We like to welcome you to  
Herzlich willkommen bei**

**VERTICAALDAGEN BENELUX 2009**

**25 EN 26 SEPTEMBER 2009**

# Low Level, High Profile

Not prepared to lie low over low level access, PASMA is championing the need for training and product standards for low level access products such as podium or pulpit steps and folding room scaffolds.

Given the added incentive of the Work at Height Regulations, industry sources estimate that some 50,000 low level products have now found their way into the UK market since 2004, where they are particularly popular with the finishing trades in the construction sector. They provide a compact, lightweight, inexpensive and, in most cases, a 'protected' working platform by having a guardrail system fitted as standard.

However, like any other item of work at height equipment, they have

their limitations and employers have a statutory obligation to ensure that anyone that uses them is competent and aware of the factors that can affect their safe use. This can only be achieved through training which is why PASMA has added a low level access module to its industry standard training scheme. As the lead industry body in this field, PASMA is also developing a product standard for low level access. Managing director, Peter Bennett said: "Unfortunately, wherever there is high demand for



C&a

PASMA focus

a product, there is inevitably an opportunity for cheap, inferior and often imported versions which, in the absence of a minimum standard, can be distributed with impunity. These have the potential to exacerbate the already concerning accident statistics for low level working."

PASMA's technical committee is now at an advanced stage of drafting a much needed product standard for this type of equipment and expects to publish a first draft for public

comment within the next few months. Anyone in doubt about the necessity for such a standard need only glance at the latest statistics from the HSE. These show that falls from a height of up to and including two metres in 2006/07 resulted in 15 fatalities, 2,947 major injuries and 3,722 injuries where the person concerned needed three or more days off work. These compare with provisional figures of 15, and 2,779 and 3,597 respectively for 2007/08.

## PASMA at Safety & Health Expo, 12 -14 May 2009

PASMA, as a leading member of the Access Industry Forum, will again be participating in Access Live, the Access Village and the Work at Height Seminar Theatre at the 2009 Safety & Health Expo, 12 - 14 May at the NEC, Birmingham.

Access Live will see PASMA using professional actors to perform a tower-based scenario designed to reinforce the Health and Safety Executive's ongoing 'Shattered Lives' campaign. It will take as its theme 'Act now before it's too late' as a call to action to combat the risk of injury or death as the result of a fall from height.

New in 2008, and back by popular demand, is the Work at Height Seminar Theatre. The aim is to provide practical knowledge and information that can be readily applied in the workplace and to address the most important questions facing the industry. PASMA members wishing to submit a paper should contact the secretariat.

Finally, Forum members, including PASMA, will again provide clear and practical guidance from their respective stands in the Access Village. For more information about the Forum and Expo, please visit [www.accessindustryforum.org.uk](http://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk)



## The Health and Safety Offences Act 2008

With the introduction of The Health and Safety Offences Act 2008 on 16 January 2009, the importance of proper training has never been greater. The new Act raises the maximum fine that can be imposed by the magistrates' courts for breaches of health and safety legislation from £5,000 to £20,000 and makes imprisonment an option for more serious offences. The new legislation has prompted warnings to employers who may be tempted to cut corners in the credit crunch that it may end up costing them their business and even their freedom.

### Contact details



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## Access in action



Erecting an insulated tower

Pic: Courtesy of Youngman Group

## New Faces

As part of its long term development plans, PASMA has appointed four new members of staff. Monica Mircescu and Christine Shepherd have joined the administration team reporting to Karen O'Neill, while Jill Coultie takes up the newly created post of membership communications officer. The fourth new member of staff is accounts controller, Suzanne McFarlane. They can be reached on 0845 230 4041.



Suzanne McFarlane



Jill Coultie



Monica Mircescu



Christine Shepherd

## Training Team

The training committee for 2008/09 comprises the following representatives:

- Andy Weaver, SGB Group (chairman)
- Jason Woods, Euro Towers
- Amanda Wild, Generation UK
- Dave Dagger, Access Consultancy & Training
- John Fidoe, HSS Hire Service Group
- Stuart Duncan, Turner Access
- Phil Higgs, Youngman Group
- Rob Norris, Aliscaff
- Geoff Carr, Instant Training
- Michael Aston, ASTRA Training (immediate past chairman)